24th September 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இதற்குப் பதில் முன்னமேயே சொல்லியிருக்கிறேன். அந்தப் பதிலை இப்பொழுதும் சொல்லுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது சேலத்திலே உருப்படியாக ஒரு "ஸ்டீல்" பிளாண்டை அமைப்பதற்கு நிலைமை தயாராக இல்லை.

Recovery of minimum charges for electricity

* 2467 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of minimum charges for the supply of electricity to Service Connection No. 2, Pennagar in proceedings Mettur E.S. No. L. 3-S-3/SI. B-22/119923, dated 17th August 1953 and Service No. 6, Pagavalli village distribution remitted as unrecoverable;

(b) for what length of time the minimum charges were not recovered;

(c) whether such minimum charges were statutorily recoverable every year; and

(d) the grounds on which such recoveries were remitted or written off?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) The amount of minimum charges remitted as unrecoverable in the case of service connection No. 2 of Pennagar distribution is Rs. 4,940–1–6 while that for Service Connection No. 6 of Pagavalli distribution is Rs. 1,402–10–0.

(b) About five years in respect of Service Connection No. 2 of Pennagar distribution and two years in respect of Service Connection No. 6 of Pagavalli distribution.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) In the case of Service Connection No. 2 of Pennagar distribution, the arrears could not be recovered as the widow and legal heir of the original consumer had no movable and immovable property and as the subsequent purchaser of the rice mill cannot be legally called upon to pay the arrears due by the original consumer. However, the Electricity Department is not put to any loss, as the purchaser has since entered into a fresh agreement with the same special guarantee of Rs. 1,800 per annum as the original consumer for a period of 10 years from the date of purchase of the rice mill.

In the case of Service Connection No. 6 of Pagavalli distribution, the consumer was not able to secure licence for his rice huller in time and the Electricity Department also had to impose restrictions on supply due to low water storages in the hydel reservoirs. In this case also, the Electricity Department is not put to any loss as the same consumer has since entered into a fresh agreement for a period of ten years agreeing to pay the special guarantee originally fixed.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. Minister at least revise the rules and see that such heavy losses do not recur to the Government frequently because the amount involved is about four to five thousand rupees?

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes, Sir. We have now issued orders to collect it even monthwar. Failure of payment for over three months will entitle discontinuance of the connection.

Trawlers and modern fishing boats

9-40 a.m. * 2468 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of trawlers and modern fishing boats supplied to the Fisheries Department under the Indo-American Co-operation Programme during 1955; and

(*b*) the number of trawlers in this State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No trawlers have meen received during 1955 under the Indo-American Co-operation Programme. But two small size modern fishing vessels fitted with modern equipments like " Echo Sounder " have been received recently.

(*b*) There are no trawlers at present in the State.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* POLICE HELP TO CONTRACTORS FOR COLLECTING ILLEGAL LEVIES IN PALLAGOWNDENPALAYAM VILLAGE SHANDY.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Sri S. Ramalingam which reads as follows :—

" This House stands adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz. :

the action of the Police to aid the contractors of village shandies in Pallagowndenpalayam of Erode taluk for collecting illegal levies from the villagers, by way of prosecuting the peasants who refuse to pay such illegal levies and the failure of the Government to intervene in same."

Regarding the motion, I think it is *sub judice*, because, in a Press Report, i.e., in ' The Hindu ', dated 18th September 1955, it is stated that a charge-sheet has been laid against some of the accused before the Sub-Magistrate, Perundurai. So, it is *sub judice* and it cannot be discussed now. I rule the motion out of order.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Have you given the ruling, Sir? Then, on a point of order, I would like to ask whether it is proper for the Deputy Speaker to rely for his conclusions upon a press report and then give a ruling?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The Deputy Speaker has already given a ruling. I do not think the hon. Member is entitled to question that ruling, whatever be the basis of that ruling.